

# Department of Energy

Germantown, MD 20874-1290

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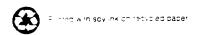
Mayor James Matavosni Rongeian Atoll Local Government Council Republic of the Marshall Islands P.O. Box 1766 Maiuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mayor Matavoshi:

Prompted by Mr. Howard Hills' e-mail message to me on May 15, 1999, regarding implementation of the DOE/RMLRALGOV Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for environmental monitoring support at Rongelan Island. I am writing to update you on the status of our joint progress implementing the MOU. Thave divided the discussion into two categories: whole body counting and plutonium urinalysis.

#### Whole Body Counting

- The Department of Energy (DOE) delivered the whole body counting chair (without electronics) to Rongeian Island on May 5, 1999. The chair was placed in temporary storage pending Rongeiap Atoll Local Government's (RALGOV) completion of the building in which it will be finally housed.
- DOE is prepared to pay training expenses, excluding travel and per diem, for two or three Rongeiapese persons in whole body counting techniques at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The first training class, originally scheduled to begin May 31, 1999, was postponed awaiting the names of nominees from RALGOV. The next available training class at LINL is September 1999. To accommodate heightened security measures at LLNL and assure that training can begin in September. DOE must receive the names and resumes of RALGOV's nominees by July 16, 1999.
- On May 15, 1999, RALGOV proposed one Rongelapese candidate to receive whole body counting training at LLNL. I request, for the program's efficiency and stability, that RALGOV nominate at least two training candidates as specified by the MOU. I have enclosed for your use guidelines concerning the desired background of the candidates. Please provide DOE a resume including this information for each person RALGOV nominates for the LLNL training.
- Upon completion of the LLNL training, the two newly trained and certified Rongelap technicians, along with LLNL technical specialists, will go to Rongelap to set up and begin operating the whole body counting facility. DOE will provide state-of-the-art electronics to nower the chair at that time.



### 2. Plutonium Urinalysis

- As of today, DOE has taken 35 "baseline" urine samples from workers on Rongelap. DOE is paying to process the urine samples for 18 of the 35 workers. We expect to have the final test results for these 18 samples by August 1, 1999.
- The remaining 17 baseline samples already taken are waiting to be processed pending contractual arrangement between RALGOV and the University of Utah (DOE's contractor performing the tests). Under the provisions of the MOU, RALGOV is responsible for paying to process and analyze 50 percent of the urine samples taken.
- DOE, based on conversations with the Rongelap construction contractor, estimates that some 10-20 individuals have worked on Rongelap and since left employment there without benefit of having their urine sampled. It is likely that some of these individuals are missing both entrance (baseline) and exit (final) urine samples while others are missing only the exit sample. It is crucial that DOE be notified of new and terminating employees so that urine samples can be obtained. Please ask your representatives to work with Mr. William Jackson, DOE's Field Operations Manager, to arrange a way to notify DOE and assure that all Rongelap workers are afforded the agreed urine testing.
- DOE, based on conversations with the Rengelap construction contractor, anticipates that another 25-50 workers are likely to be hired. Assuming proper notification, DOE will take entrance (baseline) and exit (final) unne samples from each.
- DOE will provide each Rongeiap worker whose urine is sampled with the specific test results coming from his or her urinalysis. The data will also be released to the public in summary form (using ID numbers to assure individual privacy) by way of the world-wide-web.

In a separate matter, Mr. Hills asked when DOE would notify the Marshallese who were evaluated for anemia in the chromium-51 and tritiated water clinical tests conducted by Brookhaven National Laboratory from 1961-1963. (Reference the April 29, 1999, letter from Paul J. Seligman, M.D., M.P.H., to Rongelap Mayor Matayoshi.) Notification of the individuals as scheduled to begin immediately.

In closing, I believe there are a number of important matters that need attention. My desire is that we work together to address them and achieve full implementation of the MOU. Let us begin that process.

Sincereiv,

Frank Hawkins

Director

Office of International Health Programs

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Ambassador Banny de Brum, RMI Embassy Troy Barker, Rongelap City Manager Howard Hills, Esq. Earl P. Gilmore

## Qualification Guidelines for Personnel to be Trained as Whole Body Counting Technicians

- 1. One to two years formal education beyond High School
- 2. Good communication skills (written and spoken) in English
- 3. Ability to work independently and with others
- 4. Willing to make a long-term commitment
- 5. Familiarity with PC preferred